CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Department of State

EXCISE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

INCOMING TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 SAN SA 06379 090812Z 7444 SAN SA 06379 090812Z
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 SY-05 /068 W
------------------020102 090822Z /23

R 061745Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5206
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 6379

E.O. 12065: GDS 11/6/85 (HOWARD, RICHARD B) OR-M
TAGS: PINS PINT SHUM ES
SUBJ: (U) ARCHBISHOP STRONGLY CONDEMNS VIOLENCE OF PAST WEEK

B1-ED

2. (U) ARCHBISHOP LAMENTED VIOLENCE OF PAST WEEK WHICH HE SAID RESULTED IN MORE THAN 60 DEAD AND 100 WOUNDED. HE DEMANDED INCIDENTS BE INVESTIGATED AND RESULTS BE MADE PUBLIC, BUT CONTINUED THAT BRUTALITY WITH WHICH SECURITY FORCES HAD ATTACKED COULD BE CONDEMNED WITHOUT INVESTIGATION. (THIS DREW LONG, SUSTAINED APPLAUSE FROM AUDIENCE). INVESTIGATION, HE SAID, COULD EXPLAIN, BUT IN NO WAY JUSTIFY NUMBER OF DEATHS, FOR WHICH SECURITY FORCES BORE MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY. AT ANOTHER POINT ARCHBISHOP SAID SECURITY FORCE ACTIONS WERE MORE BRUTAL THAN THEY HAD BEEN UNDER ROMERO REGIME. HE CONTRASTED THIS WITH MEASURES OF U.S. MARINES IN REPELLING ATTACK ON EMBASSY, USING TEAR GAS AND RESULTING ONLY MINOR INJURIES.

. (U) ARCHBISHOP SAID BELIEVED IN HONESTY OF YOUNG ALVADORAN MILITARY NOW IN COMMAND, AND CALLED ON THEM COOPERATE IN CLEANING UP BY SECURITY FORCES. UATION, HOWEVER, WAS WORSE THAN BEFORE BECAUSE THE LITY ARE NOW COMMITTING NEW CRIMES TO COVER OLD ONES. NOTED THAT SECURITY FORCE AGENTS GUILTY OF ABUSES D ACTED UPON COMMANDS OF THEIR LEADERS AND IT IS HERS WHO MUST BE INDICTED AND PUNISHED. THIS HE ID IS TASK OF NEW GOVERNMENT.

4. (U) ARCHBISHOP READ LETTER FROM LP-28 DENYING IT HAD PROVOKED INCIDENTS OF OCT 29 AND ALSO QUOTED FROM SALVADORAN HUMAN RIGHT COMMISSION COMMUNIQUE WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS SAID REVOLUTIONARY JUNTA GOVERNMENT (JRG) USE OF FORCE CONTRADICTED COUP PROCLAMATION AND WAS ISOLATING "ALMOST IRREVERSIBLY" JRG FROM PEOPLE. ARCHBISHOP SAID HE ALSO COULD NOT EXPLAIN JUNTA JUSTIFICATION OF MASSACRES. HE TERMED "MAGNIFICENT" BUT UNSATISFACTORY

FIRING OF TREASURY POLICE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER FOR SAYING TREASURY POLICE HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN AN INCIDENT. FIRING DID NOT EXPLAIN WHY OFFICER FELT IT NECESSARY TO LIE IN FIRST PLACE.

5. (U) NOTHING U.S. OFFERS OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO JRG ARCHBISHOP SAID ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE TIED TO ENDING ABUSES OF SECURITY FORCES AND SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF QUESTIONS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DISAPPEARED PERSONS. OTHERWISE, HE SAID, MILITARY ASSISTANCE WOULD ONLY REINFORCE OPPRESSION OF PEOPLE.

6. (U) ARCHBISHOP WENT ON TO CONDEMN VIOLENCE OF EXTREME LEFT, INCLUDING ASSASSINATION OF EIGHT MEMBERS OF SECURITY FORCES AND KIDNAPPING OF BUSSINESSMEN. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN EXESSES OF LEFT WOULD BE USED AS JUSTIFICATION FOR COUTER COUP. HE SUPPORTEE JRG EFFORTS FOR DIALOGUE WITH POULAR REVOLUTIONARY BLOC (BPR) OCCUPIERS OF TWO MINISTRIES, BUT EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR BPR RELUCTANCE OT GIVE UP HOSTAGES WHO ARE PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENT DISLODGEMENT. HE DESCRIBED BURIAL OF 23 OF POPULAR LEAGUES OF 28 FEB DEAD IN EL ROSARIO CHURCH AS "PRUDENT" IN VIEW OF ADDITIONAL VIOLENCE THAT MARCH TO CEMETERY MIGHT HAVE ENTAILED. IN NORMAL TIMES, HE NOTED, BURIAL WITHIN CHURCH WOULD REQUIRE APPROVAL OF POPE AND CIVIL AUTHORITIES, BUT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES HE WOULD INFORM POPE WHAT HAD OCCURRED. (BISHOP AFFAIRS OF SAN VICENTE PROTESTED BURIAL IN CHURCH.)

7. (U) TENSE SITUATION NIGHT OF NOV 1-2 WAS ALSO REFERRED TO BY ARCHBISHOP. HE RELATED THAT ARMED NATIONAL GUARD HAD TRIED TO ENTER EL ROSARIO CHURCH AND WAS CAPTURED BY LP-28 OCCUPIERS. (DETAILS OF CAPTURE ARE MATTER OF DISPUTE.) NATIONAL GUARD FORCES WERE THEN DRAWN UP AROUND CHURCH AND THREATENED TO STORM IT TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF THEIR COMRADE. DISASTER WAS AVERTED WHEN ARCHBISHOP AND OTHERS WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN GUARD'S RELEASE TO NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL.

8. (U) JRG ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE ISSUE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DISAPPEARED PERSONS WAS WELCOMED BY ARCHBISHOP. HE CALLED UPON PUBLIC TO SUPPORT INVESTIGATION TO ENSURE IT WOULD BE TRUE AND THOROUGH, NOT LIKE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATIONS. ARCHBISHOP ALSO CALLED FOR IN-DEMNIFICATION OF FAMILIES OF VICTIMS AND PUNISHMENT OF GUILTY. ARCHBISHOP FURTHER NOTED JRG WAS CALLING THIS PROBLEM "INHERITANCE" FROM ROMERO REGIME, WHEN IN FACT THERE HAVE ALSO BEE DISAPPEARANCES UNDER JRG.
ARCHBISHOP CITED AGAIN MISSING SACRISTAN OF SOYAPANGO CHURCH.
HOWARD

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY HD DATE 28 JUL 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

CONFIDENTIAL